



FACT SHEET

One of Australia's most significant war trophies *Mephisto* was temporarily loaned by Queensland Museum to the Australian War Memorial from June 2015 until May 2017, after which it will be returned to go on permanent display in a new permanent gallery which is due to open late 2018 at Queensland Museum Southbank.

MEPHISTO

- *Mephisto* is the only surviving German A7V Sturmpanzerwagen tank in the world, captured during World War One in July 1918 near the French town of Villers-Bretonneux.
- The tank was salvaged by soldiers from the 26th Battalion, comprised mainly of Queenslanders, who helped recover the abandoned tank and drag it behind allied lines.
- It was sent to Australia as a war artefact, arriving in Brisbane in June 1919 where it was towed by two Brisbane City Council steamrollers to the Queensland Museum.
- *Mephisto* is one of the best known objects in the Queensland State collection and has been the subject of significant research and conservation work.

SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 33.4 tonnes (73,700 lbs)

Length: 8 metres (26 ft 3in)

Width: 3.2m (10ft 5in)

Height: 3.3m (10ft 10in)

Range: 40km (25 miles)

Speed: 16 km/h (10mph) – with 'tail wind'

Armour: 10-30mm

Crew: 18

CONSERVATION

- A large and precious metal object like *Mephisto* needs continually conservation.
- *Mephisto* has undergone specialist metals conservation at the Australian War Memorial and will continue to undergo further remedial conservation works at Queensland Museum ahead of its permanent display at South Bank.
- Specific work undertaken by the conservation team at AWM included installing replica guns; assessing the condition of the gearbox and engine, replacing oils and fluids within the engine, corrosion treatments on the body of the tank and they developed a maintenance plan for long-term preservation of *Mephisto*.
- Until its permanent move back to Queensland Museum South Bank, *Mephisto* will undergo conservation and curatorial assessment by Queensland Museum curatorial staff while housed in a carcoon at The Workshops Rail Museum. The carcoon will protect *Mephisto* from the humidity and the elements.
- Visitors will have an opportunity to view it while this work is undertaken at The Workshops Rail Museum at Ipswich, where it will be on public display, in a de-humidified balloon-like cover called a carcoon.
- Visitors can see *Mephisto* at The Workshops Rail Museum at Ipswich near the Nippers Railway area.

For more information visit www.qm.qld.gov.au or www.awm.gov.au